

PUBLIC

AI Index: EUR 60/02/98

12 March 1998

Further information on EXTRA 12/98 (EUR 60/01/98, 3 February 1998) - Medical concern / Political prisoner and new concern: Death penalty / Torture or Ill-treatment

TAJIKISTAN Abdulkhafiz Abdullayev

New cases: and five other men

Amnesty International is alarmed at reports that political prisoner Abdulkhafiz Abdullayev and five other men were sentenced to death by the Supreme Court of Tajikistan on 12 March 1998, apparently without right of appeal. They may face imminent execution unless the President of Tajikistan commutes their death sentences.

There is also grave concern that Abdulkhafiz Abdullayev was sentenced to death despite reports that he is critically ill with cancer and that he is not receiving the necessary medical attention his condition requires.

The six men went on trial in October 1997 as part of a group of some 19 men charged with the creation of an illegal armed formation in Khujand with the purpose of carrying out armed assaults on state representatives. They were accused of having planned and carried out an assassination attempt on President Rakhmonov in Khujand in April 1997. The Supreme Court reportedly sentenced the six above-mentioned defendants to death for treason, banditry and terrorism. Thirteen other defendants received prison sentences ranging from 14 years to one year.

Supporters of Abdulkhafiz Abdullayev, the younger brother of Abdumalik Abdullojanov, the head of the opposition National Revival Bloc, claimed that the motive for his inclusion in this criminal case and for the charges against him was to intimidate the Khujand-based opposition. Unconfirmed reports stated that co-defendants alleged in court that during the investigation they had been forced under duress, including being beaten, to incriminate Abdulkhafiz Abdullayev.

The organization opposes the death penalty in all cases and without reservation, on the grounds that it is a violation of the right to life. The denial of the right of appeal in this case is also a violation of the internationally recognized right to appeal to a court of higher jurisdiction in capital cases.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express/airmail letters in Russian, English or in your own language:

- urging President Rakhmonov to grant clemency to the six men and commute their death sentences;
- continuing to urge that Abdulkhafiz Abdullayev receive appropriate medical attention immediately, including being moved to a specialized hospital;
- urging that allegations that several defendants were beaten or ill-treated in order to force confessions are investigated swiftly and impartially, with the results made public and those responsible brought to justice.

APPEALS TO:

1) The President of Tajikistan, Imomali Sharipovich Rakhmonov
Respublika Tajikistan

g. Dushanbe
Apparat Prezidenta
Prezidentu RAKHMONOVU I.Sh.
TAJIKISTAN

Telegrams: Prezidentu Rakhmonovu, Dushanbe, Tajikistan

Salutation: Dear President

2) The Minister of Internal Affairs, Khumdin Khasanovich Sharifov
Respublika Tajikistan

g. Dushanbe
ul. Dzherzhinskogo, 29
Ministerstvo vnutrennikh del
Ministru SHARIFOVU Kh.Kh.
TAJIKISTAN

Telegrams: Ministru vnutrennikh del Sharifovu, Dushanbe, Tajikistan

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

The Procurator General, Salomiddin Sharopov
Respublika Tajikistan
734022 g. Dushanbe
prospekt A. Sino, 126
Prokuratura Respubliki Tajikistan
Generalnomu prokuroru SHAROPOVU S.
TAJIKISTAN

The Foreign Minister, Talbak Nazarovich Nazarov
Respublika Tajikistan
734051 g. Dushanbe
Ministerstvo inostrannykh del
Ministru NAZAROVU T.
TAJIKISTAN

Faxes: + 7 3772 23 29 64 / 21 02 59

and to diplomatic representatives of Tajikistan accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 10 April 1998.